

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 MC-02 DODE-00 /065 W

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R 071640Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1628

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2234

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 DECLAS 12/31/05

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, WB

SUBJECT: FURTHER SOVIET REMARKS ON CBM OBSERVERS

REFS: (A) USBERLIN 2157; (B) BONN 17690

1. WE PROVIDE BELOW, AS OF INTEREST TO ADDRESSEES, PARAPHRASED VERSION OF MESSAGE FROM USMLM TO USAREUR AND USAFE RECORDING CONVERSATION BETWEEN CHIEF USMLM AND SERB OFFICERS AT SOCIAL OCCASION NOV 3 ON SUBJECT OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES.

2. DEPUTY CHIEF SERB (LTC KANAVIN) TOOK CHIEF USMLM ASIDE AND "AGGRESSIVELY HAND FRANKLY" INQUIRED ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF HELSINKI AGREEMENT, SPECIFICALLY ATTENDANCE OF OBSERVERS AT MILITARY EXERCISES. WHO WERE THESE OBSERVERS TO BE? MISSION MEMBERS, ATTACHES, OR REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED BY RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE? MINDFUL OF EMBASSY BONN'S GUIDANCE (PARA3, REF B)

AND YET DESIROUS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO DIA'S REQUIRMENTS, CHIEF USMLM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS INDEED INTERESTING QUESTION
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BUT ONE THAT WAS BEYOND HIS SCOPE. WHY DID KANAVIN ASK? LATTER

RESPONDED WITH FURTHER QUESTION: IN ESSENCE, WHICH SIDE WAS TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER? CHIEF USMLM SAID THAT HE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW AND THAT, REGARDLESS OF HIS PERSONAL OPINION, HE COULD NOT STATE ANYTHING CONSTRUCTIVE. KANAVIN THEN SAID: "IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CONSIDER THIS TO BE SENSITIVE?" CHIEF USMLM REPLIED THAT THESE QUESTIONS COULD NOT REALLY BE ADDRESSED BY INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS THEMSELVES AND ASKED WHAT WAS THINKING OF CINC AND CHIEF OF STAFF GSFG. KANAVIN EVADED DIRECT ANSWER AND INSTEAD STRESSED AGAIN THAT, IF PROGRESS WAS TO BE MADE, ONE SIDE HAD TO TAKE INITIATIVE WITH OTHER. CHIEF USMLM THEN SOUGHT TO DRAW SOVIET INTERLOCUTOR OUT ON WHERE HE BELIEVED THIS DECISION WAS TO BE MADE, WITH LATTER ULTIMATELY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT DECISION WAS POLITICAL ONE TO BE MADE IN

CAPITALS. AT THIS MOMENT, CHIEF SERB JOINED CONVERSATION. INFORMED BY HIS DEPUTY OF DIRECTION OF DISCUSSION, CHIEF SERB GAVE HIM "A COUPLE OF STEELY LOOKS" AND THEN NODDED IN AGREEMENT.

3. CHIEF USMLM COMMENTED IN HIS MESSAGE TO USAREUR AND USAFE THAT HE HAD IMPRESSION KANAVIN WAS POINTEDLY ASKING QUESTIONS THAT SERB HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO POSE. WHILE USURE WHETHER THIS DIRECTIVE CAME FROM WUNSDORF OR HIGHER, HIS OWN BELIEF IS THAT MATTER IS OF CONCERN TO AND UNDER CONSIDERATION BY CINC AND CHIEF OF STAFF GSFG. IN LIGHT ALSO OF PREVIOUS SOVIET APPROACH ON SUBJECT TO CHIEF BRIXMIS (REF A), CHIEF USMLM CONCLUDED THAT SOVIETS ARE IN FACT PROBING. THEIR LINE ON TAKING INITIATIVE IS PROBABLY EXPLOITABLE, HE ADDED, IN VIEW OF WEST'S INVITATION TO WARSAW PACT FOR OBSERVERS TO BE PRESENT AT RECENT MANEUVERS. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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